

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: EGEN PINT PGOV AF PL
SUBJ: NEW AFGHAN PLANNING MINISTER FORECAST "NON-CAPITALIST
DEVELOPMENT" IN POLISH MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

REF: KABUL 6121 (NOTAL)

1. THE POLISH ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY PERSPEKTYWY IN ITS JULY 21
ISSUE CARRIED AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE PLANNING MINISTER
OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, SULTAN
ALI KESHTMAND, TO RYSZARD PIEKAROWICZ, SOUTH ASIAN CORRES-
PONDENT OF THE POLISH PRESS AGENCY AGENCY (PAP). PESHTMAND, IDEN-
TIFIED BY PERSPEKTYWY AS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN IN 1965, STRESSED
IN THE INTERVIEW THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT INTENDS "TO
FOLLOW A NON-CAPITALISTS WAY OF DEVELOPMENT." MORE SPECI-
FICALLY, KESHTMAND SAID, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS
TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND "THE STATE SECTOR, ES-
PECIALLY INDUSTRY" AND GIVE IT THE DOMINANT POSI-
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TION IN THE ECONOMY; TO CARRY OUT AN AGRARIAN
REVOLUTION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH THROUGHGOING
REDISTRIBUTION OF LAND NOW IN LARGE HOLDINGS AND
THE GRADUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVE FARMS;
AND TO INSTITUTE STATE CONTROL OVER FOREIGN TRADE.

2. ASKED HOW LONG THESE REFORMS WOULD TAKE, KESHTMAND

SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WITHIN TEN YEARS AFGHANISTAN WOULD "MOVE FROM THE STAGE OF AN ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD, TRIBAL AND SEMI-FEUDAL TYPE OF SOCIETY TO A STAGE WHERE WE SHALL BE ABLE TO START THINKING OF BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A NEW SOCIETY, FREE OF EXPLOITATION AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE." HE ADDED THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WANTED TO BYPASS THE "NORMAL" PROCESS REQUIRING "MANY DECADES," IN WHICH THE TRIBAL SYSTEM WOULD GIVE WAY TO "CLASSIC FEUDALISM" WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE REPLACED BY CAPITALISM AS INTERIM STAGES.

3. KESHTMAND ALSO SAID THAT AFGHANISTAN WILL NOT FOLLOW WESTERN ADVICE TO REMAIN A PREDOMINANTLY AGRARIAN COUNTRY OR TO DEVELOP ONLY "THOSE BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY WHICH ARE BASED ON AGRICULTURE." CONCEDED THE INTERVIEWER'S POINT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PLANS ARE "VERY AMBITIOUS AND NOT EASY," KESHTMAND AGREED THAT HELP FROM ABROAD WOULD BE NEEDED TO CARRY THEM OUT. HE SAID 60-70 PERCENT OF ALL ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS COME FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET UNION. BESIDES THIS, HE SAID, KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE CONTINUING TO SEND INSTALLMENTS ON CREDITS GRANTED EARLIER FOR "VARIOUS SMALL ECONOMIC PROJECTS." THE WEST,
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KESHTMAND CONTINUED, "EXPRESSED READINESS TO SUPPLY US WITH ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH NO NEW AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED." AFGHANISTAN, HE CONCLUDED, IS READY TO ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM ANY COUNTRY, PROVIDED IT IS WITHOUT STRINGS.

4. COPIES OF THE INTERVIEW IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION ARE BEING POUCHED TO KABUL, AS REQUESTED REFTEL, AND TO NEA/PAB.
SCHAUFEELE

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NNN

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